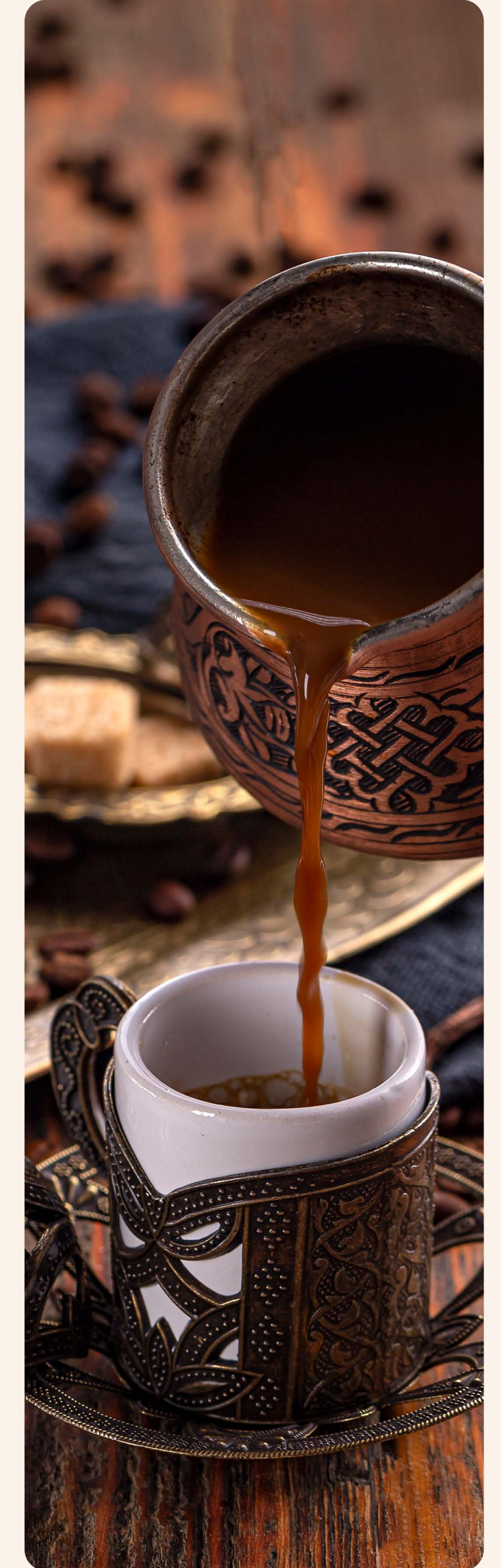
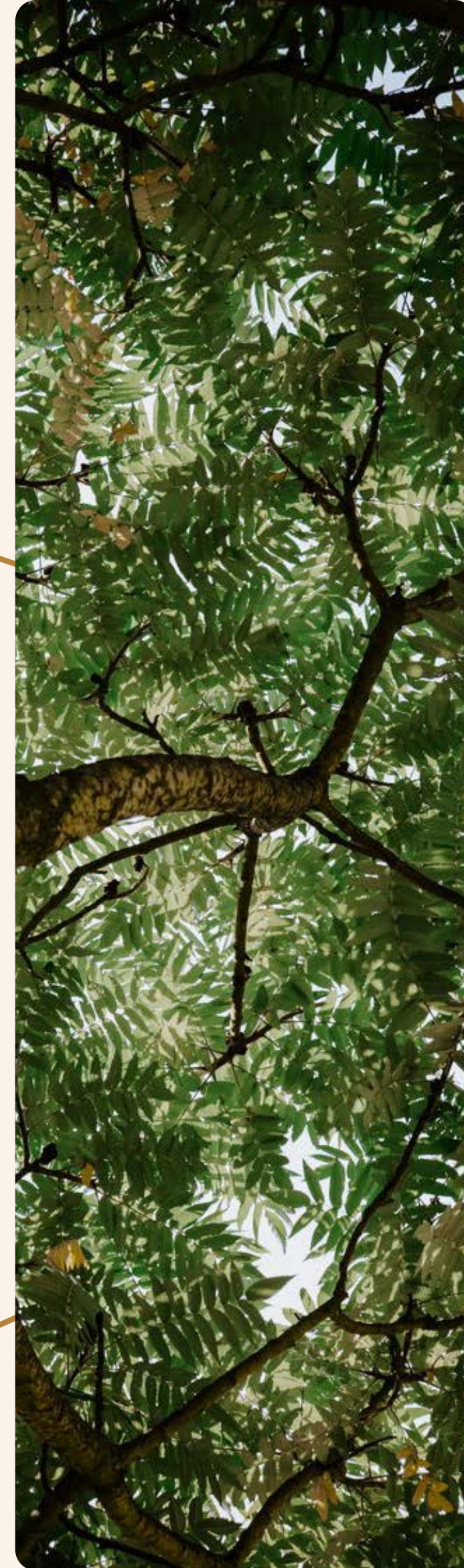


*Tiyya*

# Annual Report

2020-2021



# Table of Contents



Letter from CEO	<u>1</u>
Our Mission	<u>2</u>
Client Demographics	<u>3</u>
Program Design	<u>4</u>
COVID-19	<u>9</u>
Highlights	<u>12</u>
About	<u>14</u>
Financials	<u>17</u>
Connect	<u>19</u>

# Dear Tiyya Community:



The last two years have been pivotal for The Tiyya Foundation as we maneuvered a global pandemic and revitalized our services in the community. After government budget cuts to refugee resettlement, I found myself in 2019 as the only employee at The Tiyya Foundation. In 2020, I launched a brick-and-mortar restaurant, Flavors from Afar, as a way to sustain our programmatic efforts - 40% of proceeds go back to The Tiyya Foundation. Unprepared, our opening date was the same week as the 2020 stay-at-home order. Today, we are recognized as the top 101 Restaurants in Los Angeles, voted by the LA Times.

While establishing this initiative, Tiyya cared for clients through a severe global pandemic. Refugees were excluded from government aid and faced intense food insecurity, social isolation, and employment challenges. Our donors rose to the occasion, and together we provided regular food deliveries, direct financial aid, and consistent programming to our community through the toughest of times.

I'm incredibly grateful for how we came together to care for one another. I'm also proud to report back that we have a thriving programming staff that supports the rehabilitation of families after experiencing displacement. Our programs include Case Management / Educational Access, Career Placement, Community Engagement, and Workforce Development. Our families are designated to various cohorts within our programs such as

Women & Mothers, Teens & Young Adults, Economic Advancement, and Community Development to ensure that they receive undivided attention. We are also securing funding to on-board a Housing Specialist soon to help identify housing in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

I thank you for believing in our mission to support families of immigrants, refugees, and displaced indigenous communities. Can you imagine being housed, checked on, set up with a job, and part of the community after something so traumatic? This unique and streamlined process has taken me 12 years of trials and tribulations to refine.

The Tiyya Foundation was founded by refugees and women of color for the places we live and the communities we serve. We embrace the strengths and beauty of our different histories to build spaces and experiences where all discover belonging.

Thank you for being part of our transformative work. As the media updates us on world tragedies, it can feel paralyzing. I'm so grateful to be working alongside you to create a tangible rehabilitation process for families starting anew in our local communities.

**SINCERELY,**

*Meymuna Hussein-Cattan*

# Our Mission

The Tiyya Foundation creates communities of support and organizes access to economic opportunities and critical resources for immigrants, refugees, and displaced indigenous communities. Through our work, we foster the development of self-sufficiency, ultimately helping our program participants overcome obstacles and actively participate in society.



# Client Demographics



**Tiyya currently serves 190 active households (703 individuals, 475 children).  
77 households are from Afghanistan.**

## **Countries of Origin include:**

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Jordan	Somalia
Cambodia	Gabon	Kenya	Sudan
Chechnya	Guatemala	Lebanon	Syria
Cuba	Honduras	Libya	Tunisia
Egypt	Indonesia	Mexico	Venezuela
El Salvador	Iran	Palestine	
Eritrea	Iraq	Russia	

## **Tiyya serves families who speak the following languages at home:**

Afaan Oromo	Dari	Pashto
Amharic	Farsi	Somali
Arabic	French	Spanish

# Program Design in 2021

Tiyya conducted a comprehensive needs assessment for all clients in March 2021. By identifying what levels of challenges our members were experiencing, we also analyzed our communication to the larger community. Resources we provide to each member is made possible by our donor base. Our donors, who were also experiencing the challenges of the pandemic, needed a better understanding of how to help Tiyya's clients. The relationship is symbiotic. Data we collected allowed us to redesign Tiyya's programs to provide more engagement for both audiences. This higher level of community engagement increased social interaction, employment opportunities, and led to the design of four new cohorts.

This integration of the donor and client community is witnessed successfully at Flavors from Afar, where refugee chefs are praised for their talents. It is also demonstrated at Tiyya's mixers where clients and donors are able to develop meaningful relationships.





COHORT 1

# Women & Mothers

Track 1:

## TEA AND TOTS

Once a month, Tiyya families and our general donor base are both invited to a casual playdate at the park or community centers to break bread and enjoy a variety of international teas. Youth ages 0-7 are gifted with diapers, toys, and school supplies. Mothers also receive pop-up workshops as it pertains to career development, practicing conversational English, and parenting in America.

Track 2:

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Refugees already experience intense amounts of isolation upon arrival to the United States. We now see how social isolation exponentially magnified for them during 2020. To help assist mothers as society opens, Tiyya plans to host Coffee & Conversation gatherings to help them feel acclimated with socializing again. These gatherings will offer opportunities to practice conversational English skills, cross cultural communication, and relationship building facilitated by Tiyya's ESL Instructor.



COHORT 2

# Children & Young Adults

Track 1:

## YOUTH CULINARY ACADEMY

Since launching our brick-and-mortar restaurant, our refugee chefs have requested opportunities to work with Tiyya's youth and community members. As this would be a great opportunity for Flavors to merge closely with our programs, The Tiyya Foundation has decided to launch a Culinary Academy for ages 7-12. During these sessions, youth will learn how to make a variety of dishes from around the globe while also immersing in academic skills-building. Our curriculum will include easily transferable lessons in the kitchen such as time management, mathematics, project management, and other skills that will help students learn how to retain information in their school environment.

Track 2:

## LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

Over the years, our educational programming consisted of our College Preparation which provides workshops and one-on-one mentoring to prepare middle school and high school students. To upgrade this program, we plan to meet monthly and include outdoor activities to encourage movement. Activities will include hiking, soccer, and enjoying other outdoor activities while planning for college.

A portion of our Life Skills Program will be dedicated to financial education. Participants will learn more about debt management, credit scores, managing bills / expenses, and other financial basics so they can prepare for the real world.





COHORT 3

# Economic Advancement

Track 1:

## CAREER PLACEMENT

Our economic advancement activities help any client over the age of 18 to find and maintain employment. Our dedicated Career Placement Specialist works with local employers to place clients directly into jobs. Tiyya prioritizes serving women to address gender economic equity, but no one is turned away from services. Unique to Tiyya, our career placement staff work with clients not just to find entry level employment, but to become recertified into the professions they held in their home countries such as medical doctor, dentist, and engineer. We also offer traditional Job Coaching that teaches clients basic job search skills, resume building, networking on LinkedIn, and interview techniques.

Track 2:

## FLAVORS FROM AFAR

Our social enterprise Flavors from Afar hosts our Culinary Program. While the general public gets to experience global cuisines each month designed by former refugees and asylum seekers - our clients equally benefit from on the job training, and receive a portfolio of food photography, headshots, and a personal bio. This package is designed to professionalize their work so they can pursue long-term employment in the culinary field and/or establish their own catering businesses. Our unique mission and revolving menu have earned us significant media attention. From [Buzzfeed](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Eater](#), [Food52](#), [Institute of Culinary Education](#), and more. Yelp reviewers continue to praise our level of quality, hospitality, flavors, and commitment to community. The LA Times has voted Flavors from Afar as Top 101 Restaurants in LA County, 2021.



## COHORT 4

# Community Development

Dedicated to engaging individuals who identify as BIPOC and/or 1st & 2nd generation immigrants, our Executive Director has begun cultivating meaningful relationships by hosting private dining experiences at Flavors from Afar at select private locations. Community members are invited to attend curated conversations and participate in focus groups. These events have given us invaluable feedback and insight from new and long time supporters.

### Track 1:

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Tiyya Foundation has noticed a lack of personalized stories in the immigrant narrative. Many times, these narratives are often told by people removed from the experience. We are working with Mythos One Media to share unique stories of migration and how second-generation immigrants preserve parts of their identities while navigating the United States, as first hand accounts.

### Track 2:

## COMMUNITY SALONS

Select community members are invited to attend curated conversations. Data acquired from these private conversations help inform how best to engage with our often-overlooked sector of the community.

### Track 3:

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Since 2010, Tiyya has facilitated seasonal community events to help fundraise for our programs. These activities take place quarterly to sustain our program initiatives, while allowing clients and donors to develop meaningful relationships.

# COVID-19 in 2020



The pandemic proved to be an extremely challenging time for our organization. Families served by Tiyya were facing intense food and financial insecurity, minimal access to public transportation, unavailable school and childcare centers, and an increase in mental health challenges. Additionally, in March of 2020, we took a leap of faith and launched our social enterprise restaurant, Flavors from Afar in Little Ethiopia of Los Angeles, as many establishments around us were forced to close their doors.

Throughout the pandemic, we regularly paused and listened to our youth and families; quickly pivoting to what we learned as high priority needs during multiple lockdowns. By leaning on our volunteer and donor network, together we were able to accomplish the following as a community:

- Tiyya raised \$25,000 to support families with financial emergency relief by assisting with utility and rent expenses, academic supplies, and gift cards for groceries. Over 51 households were able to pay late overdue bills and avoid eviction.
- Flavors from Afar offered a one-for-one campaign where purchases made by restaurant patrons provided food items to our clients, lasting them up to two weeks. This allowed 140 families to receive bi-weekly grocery assistance.
- Offered free virtual weekly tutoring sessions for 35 participants, led by volunteer educators.
- Modified our college-prep activities to be hosted virtually. This service included FAFSA applications, basic understanding of scholarships, and financial aid opportunities.

# Client Testimonials



“I want to say thank you so much to the Tiyya organization and the help they have provided with getting my school books. It is very challenging being a fresh immigrant who didn’t have the work permit and I’m very grateful to them for assisting to buy me books. I didn’t realize that books even in community college can be so expensive and I’m not sure what I would be doing if it were not for this organization. Thank you so much for all the help you are doing!”

**Asylee from Russia, Anna Solodovnikova**

“I would like to thank you and your organization for paying my utilities bill. I have found your organization very helpful for me and other needy families in Orange County. Also, in this challenging situation that most families are struggling with financial shortages, your assistance is greatly appreciated.”

**Refugee from Afghanistan, Ahmad Dehati**



“I was an Uber driver and lost my job because of COVID. Our apartment building allowed us to not pay rent for months April and May due to the pandemic. After the month of June, the company added the rest of rent for April and May to the following months to pay back the amount of rent , so extra \$400 added to the rent each month that I have to pay for this year. It is very difficult for me to keep up with this expense and Tiyya helped support with a portion of the rent. They are also helping me with finding a job and even printed out business cards to help me with a new position I am applying for as a sales rep.”

**Refugee from Iraq, Nabeel Alazzawi**

COVID-19 in 2021 (CONTINUED)

# Client Testimonials

“Thank you for your generous donation to my children. Your willingness to help us during this hard time is appreciated. Your donation will help us move forward and overcome our financial hardship. I will be able to use this financial assistance towards devices for my kids as they are attending school online. Tiyya has been a great help by providing different services to us and a lot of families, like backpacks, school supplies, food and tutoring. Every person has brought a smile to my kids face. I appreciate all that Tiyya does and am grateful for everything they have done for us. I consider myself lucky to be part of their community.”

**Refugee from Iraq, Sarah Almagsoosi**

“Thank you so much for your help during this difficult time. As an asylee, this assistance really helped me to get through every single day worrying about places to live or food to eat. With this donation, it really helps to alleviate my situation. This is such a difficult time. However, there are good people like you who are willing to help me. I am so grateful and appreciate your help. I won’t forget this kindness, and I hope that you will always get blessed for the good things you have done for me and our community.”

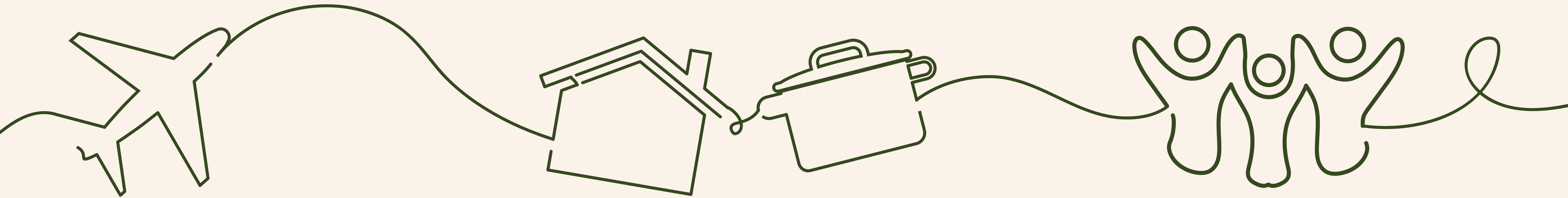
**Asylee from Indonesia, John Nugroho**



“I am from Kenya seeking for asylum with my family to escape FGM. I did not want my daughters to go through the trauma I went through. My document has already been filed and I am waiting to receive my letter from USCIS. I am not able to work until I get my work authorization and I do not have enough to buy food. Tiyya Foundation has helped me and my family so much by giving us financial aid to cover a full month of groceries. We are so grateful for their assistance. They are also helping me and my eldest daughter with preparing for work once we receive our authorization. I felt alone in this country but now I feel like I have a community that is helping me. Thank you Tiyya and to all the wonderful staff.”

**Asylee from Kenya, Beatrice Kihagi**

# Tiyya Highlights of 2021



## Safe Return

Staff helped one of our Afghan families escape Afghanistan and safely return home to Anaheim, CA.

## Housing and Employment

We assisted two asylum cases in Los Angeles transition from homelessness to stable housing and employment opportunities through Flavors from Afar.

## Political Asylees

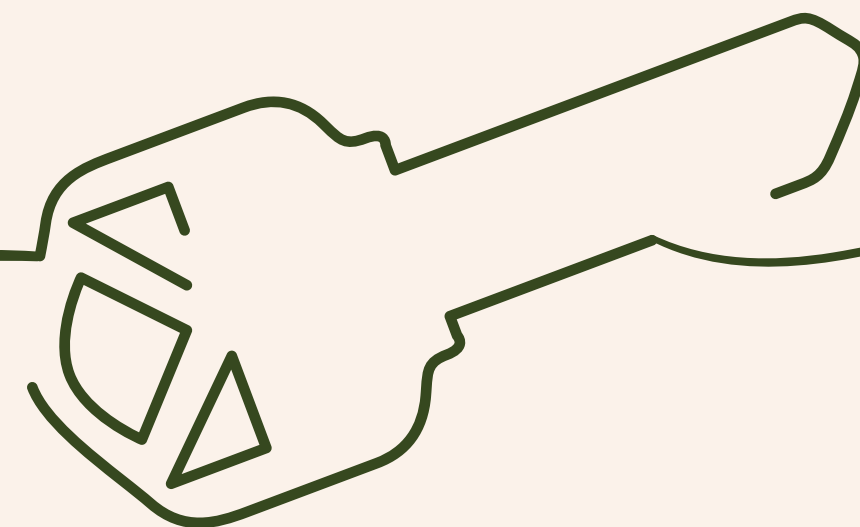
Tiyya provided a fully furnished apartment for a new family from Tunisia seeking political asylum.

# Tiyya Highlights of 2021 (continued)



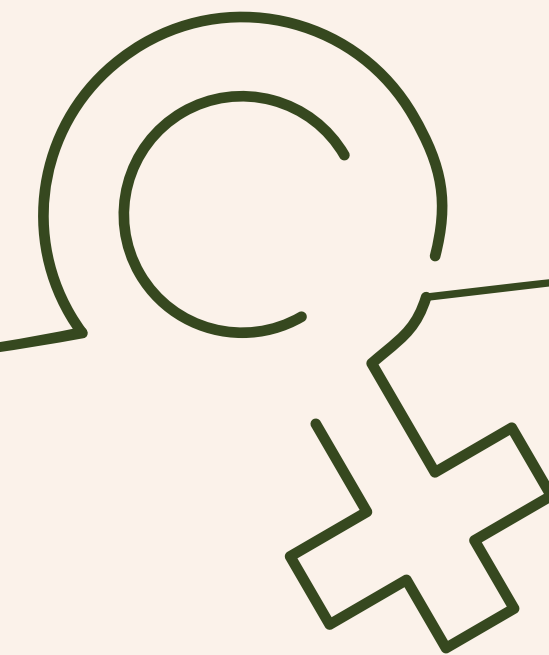
## Employment for 40

Through Tiyya and Flavors from Afar, 40 individuals, of which more than half are refugee women, found solid employment.



## Secured Housing

Tiyya secured housing for 5 newly arrived Afghan families.

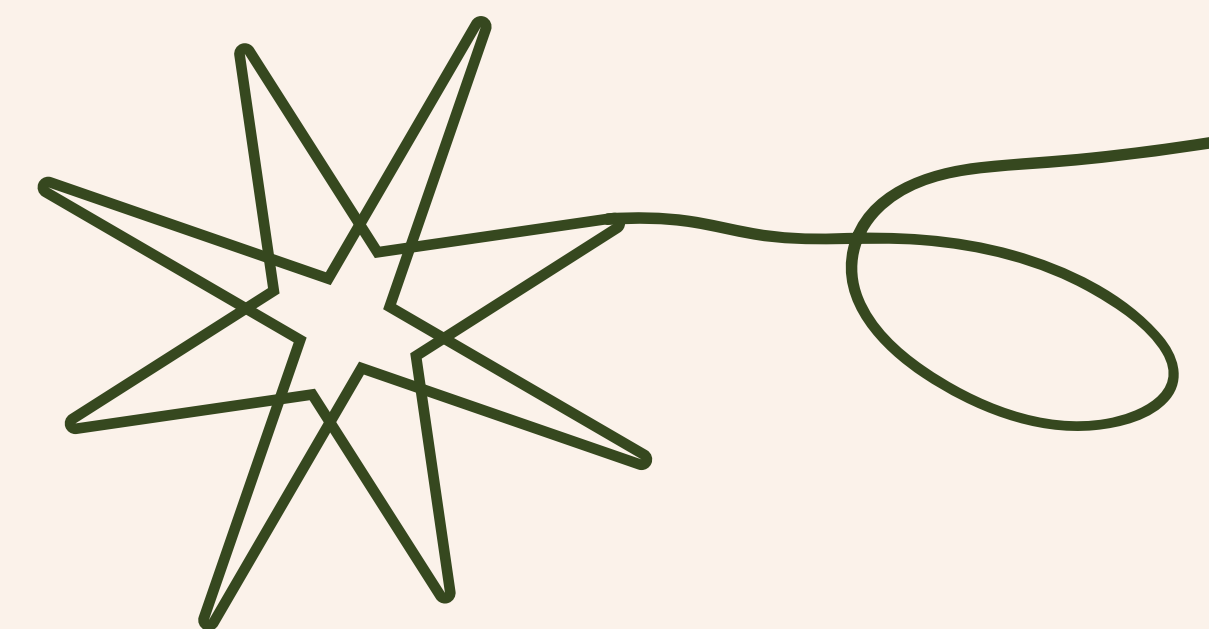


## Cohort Success

We established our first women's cohort where we provide diapers to 40 households each month through our Tea & Tots program.

## Philanthropy Award

Executive Director, Meymuna Hussein, received 2021 National Philanthropy Day Award for Outstanding Founder.



# Media Highlights



[bbc.com/afaanoromoo/oduu-52578609](https://bbc.com/afaanoromoo/oduu-52578609)



bon appétit

[bonappetit.com/story/meymuna-hussein-cattan](https://bonappetit.com/story/meymuna-hussein-cattan)



BuzzFeed

[www.buzzfeed.com/watch/video/139095](https://www.buzzfeed.com/watch/video/139095)



EATER  
LOS ANGELES

[la.eater.com/maps/where-to-find-african-food-los-angeles-ethiopian-senegal-uganda-tunisia-morocco-somalia](https://la.eater.com/maps/where-to-find-african-food-los-angeles-ethiopian-senegal-uganda-tunisia-morocco-somalia)



FOOD52

[food52.com/blog/25529-flavors-from-afar-restaurant-review](https://food52.com/blog/25529-flavors-from-afar-restaurant-review)



[kcrw.com/culture/shows/good-food/tortilla-finalists-boba-thai-hollywood-date-season/bill-addison-review-flavors-from-afar](https://kcrw.com/culture/shows/good-food/tortilla-finalists-boba-thai-hollywood-date-season/bill-addison-review-flavors-from-afar)



Los Angeles  
MAGAZINE

[lamag.com/digestblog/flavors-from-afar-little-ethiopia](https://lamag.com/digestblog/flavors-from-afar-little-ethiopia)



Los Angeles Times

[latimes.com/food/newsletter/2021-09-11/flavors-from-afar-little-ethiopia-bill-addison-tasting-notes](https://latimes.com/food/newsletter/2021-09-11/flavors-from-afar-little-ethiopia-bill-addison-tasting-notes)



Los Angeles Times

[latimes.com/food/list/best-los-angeles-restaurants-2021](https://latimes.com/food/list/best-los-angeles-restaurants-2021)



THE ORANGE COUNTY  
REGISTER

[ocregister.com/2021/09/03/heres-how-to-help-afghan-refugees-arriving-in-southern-california](https://ocregister.com/2021/09/03/heres-how-to-help-afghan-refugees-arriving-in-southern-california)



THE ORANGE COUNTY  
REGISTER

[ocregister.com/2021/12/26/most-influential-meet-orange-countys-125-top-influencers-for-2021](https://ocregister.com/2021/12/26/most-influential-meet-orange-countys-125-top-influencers-for-2021)



VoyageLA

[voyagela.com/interview/hidden-gems-meet-meymuna-hussein-cattan-of-flavors-from-afar](https://voyagela.com/interview/hidden-gems-meet-meymuna-hussein-cattan-of-flavors-from-afar)





# About us

## Board Members



**Adja Buyi Buyi**

Board Chair, Founder & CEO at Moor & Co.

**Ahmed Khalil**

Co-Chair, Owner at Khalil Law Group, APC

**Tarek Shawky**

Treasurer, Award-winning Criminal Defense Attorney

**Roya Fohrer**

Sr. Counsel at Manning & Kass

**Mukta Mohan**

VP at Higher Ground Audio

**Jen Nguyen**

Sr. Strategy Manager at Salesforce

**Alex Oh**

Culture Design, OHLAY Consulting

**Maham Rahman**

Sr. Finance Manager at Harvest

**Aisha Sabadia**

Attorney & Consultant

# About us

## Staff Members



**Meymuna Hussein-Cattan**  
Executive Director

**Shukry Cattan**  
Director of Operations

**Kelly Thomas**  
Development Officer

**Christian Davis**  
Flavors from Afar Co Founder + Program Manager

**Chef Kenna Copes**  
Flavors from Afar Executive Chef +  
Culinary Program Instructor

**Julie Vautrot**  
Flavors from Afar Program Assistant

**Mahmood Omid**  
Case Manager

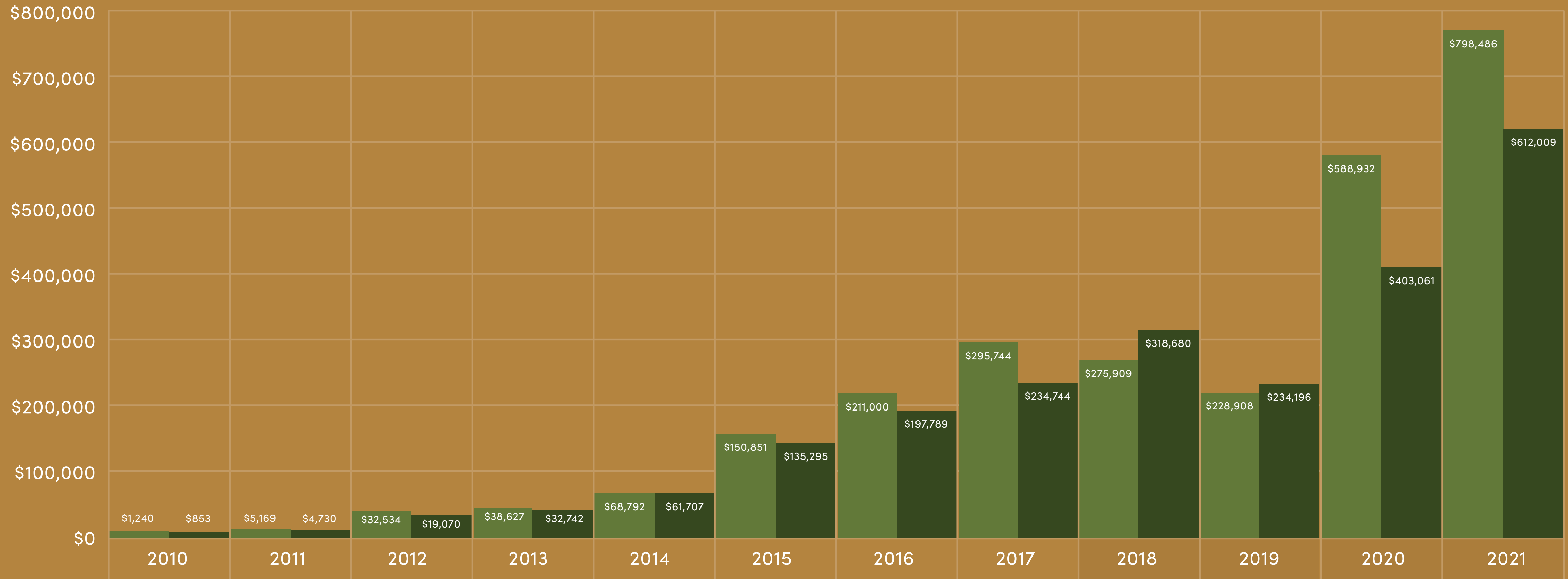
**Mira Tarabeine**  
Career Placement Specialist

**Gladys Nyoth**  
Creative Coordinator

**Enas Tayyem**  
Tiyya Program Coordinator

# Financials

On average, more than 85% of Tiyya's overall budget goes towards program expenses, the remainder is used for administrative purposes.



Due to budget cuts in our government grant, we were operating in a deficit.

Totals include COVID-19 Payroll Protection & SBA Loans.

Thank you to our  
**Foundation Partners**



P I M C O



SAJE  
FOUNDATION



# Connect with us



## Online

## Email

info@tiyya.org

## Phone

(714) 547-5050

Annual Report designed  
by Freddy Pech,  
[pechdesign.com](http://pechdesign.com).